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<u>Listing of claims:</u>

1. (withdrawn) A method for managing user information in a database directory,
comprising:

organizing the user information according to attribute values assigned to the information;

specifying the organized user information into at least one arbitrary group of users; and

managing the user information associated with the at least one arbitrary group of users.

2. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specifying of the at least one
arbitrary group of users comprises using the attribute values as criteria for forming the at least one
arbitrary group of users.

3. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specifying of the at least one
arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values as criteria for forming
the at least one arbitrary group of users.

4. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specifying of the at least one
arbitrary group of users comprises constructing a query rule to query the database directory, wherein the
query rule defines the users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

5. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein user data that satisfies the
query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

6. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the managing of user
information comprises dynamically determining in real-time whether the information is a member in the at
least one arbitrary group of users.

7. (original) A method for managing user information associated with a user community,
comprising:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users; and

granting administrative privileges for managing the administrative domain.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user
community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using attribute values associated with
each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user
community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible
attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least
one arbitrary group of users.

10. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user
community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing a query rule to define
users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the user data that satisfies the
query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the administrative domain.

12. (original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising forming an
administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain.

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13. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the forming of the administrative sub-domain further comprises specifying at least one arbitrary group of users.

14. (original) The method according to claim 12, further comprising granting administrative privileges for managing the administrative sub-domain.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges for the administrative sub-domain.

16. (original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges for the administrative domain.

17. (original) A method for providing delegated administration of a user community, comprising:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain; and

delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative domain.

18. (original) (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

19. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

20. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing a query rule to define the users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

21. (original) The method according to claim 20, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

22. (original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges to additional administrators for the administrative domain.

23. (original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising managing information associated with the administrative domain according to the delegated administrative privileges, wherein the managing of the information comprises dynamically determining in real-time whether the information is a member in the at least one arbitrary group of users.

24. (original) A method for providing delegated administration of a user community with a client system, comprising:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain;

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forming an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain; and

delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative sub-domain.

25. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

26. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

27. (original) A method for enabling an administrator to control administration of a user community, comprising:

providing user information associated with the user community to the administrator;

prompting the administrator to specify the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

prompting the administrator to form an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

prompting the administrator to define administrative privileges for the administrative domain; and

using the administrative domain and administrative privileges defined by the administrator to control administration of the user community.

28. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein the prompting of the administrator to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises prompting the administrator to use attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

29. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein the prompting of the administrator to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises prompting the administrator to use combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

30. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein the prompting of the administrator to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises prompting the administrator to construct a query rule to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users.

31. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one group of users.

32. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, further comprising prompting the administrator to form an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain.

33. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 32, further comprising prompting the administrator to grant administrative privileges for managing the administrative sub-domain to another administrator.

34. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 33, further comprising prompting the administrator of the sub-domain to delegate the granted administrative privileges.

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35. (withdrawn) A user community administration tool for managing user information associated with a user community, comprising:

a user group specifying component that specifies the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

a domain formation component that forms an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

an administrative privileges component that grants administrative privileges for the administrative domain; and

an information management component that manages information associated with the administrative domain in accordance with the granted administrative privileges.

36. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 35, wherein the domain formation component forms an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain.

37. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 36, wherein the administrative privileges component delegates the administrative privileges for the administrative sub-domain.

38. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 35, wherein the administrative privileges component delegates the granted administrative privileges for the administrative domain.

39. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 35, wherein the user group specifying component uses attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

40. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 35, wherein the user group specifying component uses combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

41. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 35, wherein the user group specifying component specifies the at least one arbitrary group of users from a query rule.

42. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 41, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

43. (withdrawn) The tool according to claim 35, wherein the information management component dynamically determines in real-time whether the information is a member in the at least one arbitrary group of users.

44. (withdrawn) A system for managing user information associated with a user community, comprising:

a database directory containing a plurality of user information;

a user community administration tool to manage the plurality of user information in the database directory; the user community administration tool comprising a user group specifying component that specifies the user community into

at least one arbitrary group of users; a domain formation component that forms an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users; an administrative privileges component that grants administrative privileges for the administrative domain; and an information management component that manages information associated with the administrative domain in accordance with the granted administrative privileges; and

a first computing unit configured to serve the user community administration tool and the

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database directory.

45. (withdrawn) The system according to claim 44, further comprising a second computing unit configured to execute the user community administration tool served from the first computing unit over a network.

46. (withdrawn) The system according to claim 44, wherein the user group specifying component uses attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

47. (withdrawn) The system according to claim 44, wherein the user group specifying component uses combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

48. (withdrawn) The system according to claim 44, wherein the user group specifying component specifies the at least one arbitrary group of users from a query rule that queries the database directory.

49. (withdrawn) The system according to claim 48, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

50. (original) A user community administration tool for providing delegated administration of a user community, comprising:

means for specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

means for forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

means for granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain; and

means for delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative domain.

51. (original) The tool according to claim 50, wherein the specifying means uses attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

52. (original) The tool according to claim 50, wherein the specifying means uses combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

53. (original) The tool according to claim 50, wherein the specifying means specifies the at least one arbitrary group of users from a query rule.

54. (original) The tool according to claim 53, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

55. (original) A computer-readable medium storing computer instructions for instructing a computer system to provide delegated administration of a user community, the computer instructions comprising:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

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granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain; and

delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative domain.

56. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

57. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

58. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for constructing a query rule to define the users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

59. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 58, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

60. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising instructions for managing information associated with the administrative domain according to the delegated administrative privileges.

61. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges to additional administrators for the administrative domain.

62(withdrawn) A computer-readable medium storing computer instructions for instructing a computer system to enable an administrator to control administration of a user community, the computer instructions comprising:

providing user information associated with the user community to the administrator;

prompting the administrator to specify the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

prompting the administrator to form an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;

prompting the administrator to define administrative privileges for the administrative domain; and

using the administrative domain and administrative privileges defined by the administrator to control administration of the user community.

63. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 62, wherein the prompting of the administrator to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for prompting the administrator to use attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

64. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 62, wherein the prompting of the administrator to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for prompting the administrator to use combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

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65. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 62, wherein the prompting of the administrator to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for prompting the administrator to construct a query rule to specify the at least one arbitrary group of users.

66. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 65, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one group of users.

67. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 62, further comprising instructions for prompting the administrator to form an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain.

68. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 67, further comprising instructions for prompting the administrator to grant administrative privileges for managing the administrative sub-domain to another administrator.

69. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium according to claim 68, further comprising instructions for prompting the administrator of the sub-domain to delegate the granted administrative privileges.

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